(b) OMCs would be free to decide the price of petroleum products except LPG (domestic) and PDS Kerosene and due to the entry of new companies in the marketing of transportation fuels, it is expected that competitive services will be available to the customers.

(c) OMCs will make industry logistic plan every month on 'least landed cost' basis to ensure the marketing and distribution of petroleum products at the bare minimum cost.

LPG agencies in Rajasthan

5068. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of LPG agencies operating in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of consumers served by each of those agencies; and

(c) the details of the number of LPG connections given by them during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The total number of LPG agencies operating by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) in Rajasthan as on 1.1.2002 were 342 catering to 24.73 lakh LPG consumers.

(c) The number of LPG connections released by the LPG agencies of OMCs in the State of Rajasthan during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 were 3.22 lakh and 5.42 lakh respectively.

Shortage of gas for power projects in Gujarat

†5069. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power projects in Gujarat which have not be completed due to the shortage of gas; and

(b) what is the time bound plan proposed by Government to meet this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) As per the terms and conditions of gas supply contract for the power projects, it is envisaged to

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

have dual fuel facility in the plant. Therefore, shortage of gas may not be the basis of non-completion of any power project.

Purchase of oil and gas from Gulf countries

5070. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any long-term plan to purchase oil and natural gas from Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have entered into such an agreement with any foreign country, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) While the Government have taken numerous initiatives for securing long term supply of LNG and natural gas from Iran, Oman and Qatar, crude oil requirement for Indian refineries are procured through term contracts on a year to year basis from the Middle-East countries at their Official Selling Prices.

(c) Details of term contracts for crude oil proposed to be entered into with the national oil companies of Gulf countries by the Indian public sector oil companies for the year 2002-2003 are as follows:—

(*Fig. in Million Metric Tonnes*)

Country/Company	(Term Volume)
Saudi Arabia	9.7
Kuwait	7.5
Abu Dhabi	3.5
Yeman	2.3

Adulteration testing facilities for the petroleum products

5071. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of testing facilities for detecting adulteration of petroleum products in Gujarat;

(b) whether the State Government of Gujarat has represented for increasing the number of facilities; and